

Please amend the application filed on even date herewith, prior to proceeding with its examination.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

[Please add new claim 22, as follows:]

A (22. The process according to claim 2, characterized in that suction air containing tobacco particles (19) is led through a tobacco separator (45), and in that within the tobacco separator (45), in the region of the separating element (48), the tobacco particles (19) are separated from the air and collected.

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the examination of this application proceed on the basis of the amendatory action taken herein and that this amendment be entered prior to calculating the filing fee and according the application a filing date.

Respectfully submitted,

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